

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1054

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of highway in Hamilton County in honor of legendary musical group, The Impressions.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to name certain highways and bridges to honor those noteworthy citizens who, through their extraordinary talents, have contributed significantly to the rich musical landscape of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of popular music; and

WHEREAS, Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian, current members of the popular music singing group, The Impressions, are three such outstanding musicians who have become icons of American music; and

WHEREAS, The Impressions began their celebrated career in Chicago, Illinois, when original members Curtis Mayfield and Jerry Butler joined a group called the Roosters, which was founded by Chattanooga natives, Sam Gooden, Richard Brooks, and Arthur Brooks. By the time their breakout hit, *For Your Precious Love*, was released in 1958, the group had changed its name to The Impressions; and

WHEREAS, the early Impressions possessed their own unique sound, and their repertoire included a mixture of doo-wop, gospel, soul, and R&B; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Butler left the group in 1960, to pursue a solo career and Chattanooga native, Fred Cash, stepped in as his more than able replacement; Arthur Brooks and Richard Brooks followed, leaving the group by 1962; and

WHEREAS, with the inspiring vocals of their newest member, Fred Cash, the multi-talented Curtis Mayfield writing the majority of the songs and singing lead vocals, and the exceptional singing talent of Sam Gooden, The Impressions released a large number of Top 40 hit songs throughout the 1960s, including *Gypsy Woman*, *It's All Right*, *Keep on Pushing*, and the seminal *People Get Ready*. Heavily influenced by gospel music, these songs served as inspirational anthems for the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the sounds of The Impressions quickly became an integral part of American popular music and gave rise to the socially conscious messages featured in the music of African American artists during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, songs such as, *We're a Winner*, *I Loved and Lost*, *Choice of Colors*, *Woman's Got Soul*, *Check Out Your Mind*, *Keep on Pushing*, and *People Get Ready* are still a source of inspiration for a great number of African American people; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, founding member, Curtis Mayfield, parted from the group to produce his own sounds and current member, Reggie Torian, joined the group in 1973; from 1974-1975, The Impressions enjoyed three top five R&B singles with *Finally Got Myself Together (I'm a Changed Man)*, *Same Thing it Took*, and *Sooner or Later*; in 1976, the group changed record companies and had their final major hit single, *Loving Power*; and

WHEREAS, the members of the group released their final album in 1981, and in 1983, Jerry Butler, Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden, and Fred Cash reunited for a 25th anniversary tour before disbanding; after that legendary tour, The Impressions periodically reunited in various formats, usually recreating the classic line-up of Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden, Fred Cash, and sometimes Jerry Butler, until Mr. Mayfield was seriously injured on stage during a performance and was afterward unable to play and sing on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, one of the most revered musicians and songwriters in the history of popular music, Curtis Mayfield passed away in 1999, at the age of 57; and

WHEREAS, the music industry duly noted and honored the significant contributions of this groundbreaking group in 1991, by inducting The Impressions, consisting of members Sam

Gooden, Jerry Butler, Richard Brooks, Curtis Mayfield, Arthur Brooks, and Fred Cash, into the Rock and Roll Music Hall of Fame, and The Impressions were inducted the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, after numerous top forty R&B and pop hits, over twenty-seven albums, dozens of chart singles, millions of records sold, and forty years later, The Impressions, currently comprised of Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian, are still entertaining audiences at many different venues throughout this great nation; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to name a certain segment of Interstate 24 in Hamilton County to permanently honor The Impressions (a group that has featured four Chattanooga natives as members at one time or another) for their many worthwhile contributions to popular music and their meritorious service as representatives of socially significant, yet highly entertaining, music in this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the segment of Interstate 24 from mile marker 179 to mile marker 180 in the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, is hereby designated the "The Impressions Highway" to honor one of the greatest musical groups this State has ever known.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers, both eastbound and westbound, designating the segment of Interstate 24 described in the first resolving clause as the "The Impressions Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the City of Chattanooga in Hamilton County, Tennessee, either (1) remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution, or (2) manufactures and erects such signs pursuant to state and federal guidelines as approved by the Department. If electing option (1), the City of Chattanooga shall make payment of the estimated cost prior to any expenditure by the State for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the City of Chattanooga within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the City of Chattanooga shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the Department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.